

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-25 and 27 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of April 25, 2007, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 27 have been amended to recite that after the water is contacted with a ruthenium compound, the ruthenium compound is removed therefrom. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at paragraph 0095.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 27 has been amended to clarify that sand filtration and reverse osmosis are among ways to separate the ruthenium compound/contaminant from water. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed at paragraph 0096.

Art Rejections

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moskovitz, US 5,985,790. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Moskovitz discloses adsorbent particles comprising contacting a non-ceramic, porous, oxide adsorbent particle with an acid for a sufficient time to increase the adsorbent properties of the particle. In particular, Moskovitz discloses at column 4, lines 35-43, "Not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that the acid contacting of the particle enhances the adsorptive capacity of the particle by increasing the number of hydroxyl groups on the particle. With cationic and anionic contaminants, the hydroxyl groups provide sites for chemical bonding or replacement, such that the contaminants bond irreversibly with the particle. In general, the increased amount of hydroxyl group generate more active sites for the contaminant to bond with."

That is, Moskovitz teaches adsorbent particles that have been treated with an acid. This is not the case in the presently claimed process, which uses specifically designated ruthenium compounds as recited in amended claim 1 (previously in claim 2), and the ruthenium compounds have not been treated with acid.

The footer on page 7 of the amendment filed November 17, 2006, does not appear on the copy in applicant's file. This was obviously an error, and should be deleted.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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